

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

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R 200920Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8648

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS MY

SUBJ: GOM WHITE PAPER ON COMMUNIST INFLUENCES AMONG STUDENTS

REF: A. KUALA LUMPUR 5944 (NOTAL)

B. KUALA LUMPUR 5910

1. SUMMARY: GOM DEC 19 ISSUED WHITE PAPER SHOWING UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CHINESE LANGUAGE SOCIETY (UMCLS) LINKS WITH COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM), AND ACCUSING UMCLS OF INSTIGATING CURRENT ROUND OF STUDENT DISORDERS. MEANWHILE, SITUATION ON CAMPUSES REMAINS AS BEFORE: NO VIOLENCE, BUT WIDESPREAD BOYCOTT OF LECTURES. ATTEMPTS BY GOM TO SPLIT STUDENT MOVEMENT MAY SUCCEED IN THE SHORT RUN, BUT AS YET GOM SEEMS UNABLE/UNWILLING TO

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DEAL WITH ROOT CAUSES OF STUDENT UNREST. END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOM HAS ISSUED A "WHITE PAPER" (WP) ACCUSING THE UNIVERSITY OF MALAYA CHINESE LANGUAGE SOCIETY (UMCLS) OF BEING THE "CHOSEN SPEARHEAD" OF COMMUNIST PARTY OF MALAYA (CPM) PROPAGANDA OFFENSIVE DESIGNED TO WIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CPM REVOLUTIONARY GOALS. WP SAYS UMCLS HAS INCITED STUDENT UNREST AND CAMPUS VIOLENCE IN PROTEST OF "ALLEGED GOVERNMENT INCOMPETENCE" IN SOLVING SOCIAL INJUSTICE. WP ALSO ACCUSES UMCLS OF CONDUCTING SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES IN MANNER THAT RESEMBLES LEGITIMATE CULTURAL PURSUITS, THUS ENABLING IT TO GAIN CONSIDERABLE FOLLOWING AMONG BONA FIDE STUDENT BODIES AND CHINESE-ORIENTED CULTURAL ORGANIZATIONS.

3. WP TRACES CPM TAKEOVER OF UMCLS BACK TO MID-1970, CULMINATING IN SUBVERSIVE GROUP CONTROL OF UMCLS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN JUNE 1971. WP NOTES THAT THERE ARE THREE UMCLS MEMBERS ON NOW-SUSPENDED UNIV. OF MALAYA STUDENT UNION (UMSU) COUNCIL, AND CLAIMS UMCLS HAS USED UMSU AS "CATSPAW" WHILE ITSELF REMAINING DISCREETLY IN BACKGROUND. WP SAYS UMCLS WAS SOURCE OF PAMPHLETS CLAIMING THAT VILLAGERS HAD DIED OF STARVATION IN BALING, SOUTHEAST KEDAH (KL 5824).

4. WP DOCUMENTS CHARGES BY PUBLISHING EXTRACTS FROM CAPTURED DOCUMENTS LINKING CPM AND UMCLS, AND REFERRING TO "PRO-CPM" NEW YEARS CARDS AND OTHER SUBVERSIVE MATERIALS SEIZED IN HOUSE OCCUPIED BY UMCLS MEMBERS. FINALLY, WP NOTES INSTANCES WHEN CLANDESTINE VOICE OF THE MALAYAN REVOLUTION (VMR) HAS SUPPORTED UMCLS ACTIVITIES. EMBASSY IS AIR POUCHING COPIES OF WP TO DEPT.

5. MEANWHILE, SITUATION IN KL CAMPUSES REMAINS QUIET. BOYCOTTS OF LECTURES ARE STILL WIDESPREAD, BUT UM DIPLOMA OF EDUCATION EXAMS REPORTEDLY HELD DEC. 18 OFF CAMPUS WITH ONLY "NEGLIGIBLE NUMBER" OF ABSENTEES. UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD US THAT THEY EXPECT APPROX 60 PERCENT OF STUDENTS WILL EVENTUALLY SIT FOR EXAMS IN MID-JANUARY. ALSO, NEW STUDENT LEADERS HAVE EMERGED WHO HAVE CALLED ON STUDENTS TO END BOYCOTTS. GOM HAS ALSO ANNOUNCED RELEASE OF SEVERAL STUDENTS DETAINED UNDER INTERNAL SECURITY ACT.

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7. COMMENT: AS REPORTED REF A, UMCLS CLEARLY CONNECTED WITH CPM AND HAS LONG BEEN AGITATING AGAINST GOM BOTH AMONG STUDENTS AND GENERAL POPULATION. GOM HAS DONE A GOOD JOB DOCUMENTING THIS IN WP. HOWEVER, CLAIM THAT UMCLS RESPONSIBLE FOR CURRENT WAVE OF STUDENT UNREST, WHICH CLEARLY HEADED BY MALAY -- NOT CHINESE -- STUDENT ACTIVISTS, IS LESS CLEARLY DOCUMENTED AND WILL BE REJECTED BY MANY. ALSO, ATTEMPT TO PIN BLAME ON CHINESE STUDENTS HAS ALREADY CREATED SOME DISTRESS IN

CHINESE COMMUNITY. GOM IS ATTEMPTING TO CREATE SPLITS AMONG STUDENTS, AND IS USING WHIP OF EXAMS TO PUT AN END TO CURRENT UNREST. IN SHORT RUN THESE TACTICS ARE LIKELY TO BE SUCCESSFUL IN RESTORING ORDER ON CAMPUSES, BUT GOM AS YET HAS NO LONG TERM ANSWERS TO STUDENT UNREST.
UNDERHILL

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